

LABOR MARKET TRENDS



Latest
Unemployment Rate

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S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

LMI Division

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Employment Ticks Up Slightly as Businesses Start to Reopen

Employment: The seasonally adjusted monthly survey of households referencing the week of May 12th estimated the number of South Carolinians working rose to 2,118,575, which yields an employment-population ratio of 51.5 percent.

- That is an increase of 45,105 people over April 2020.
- That is also a significant decrease of 179,177 people over May 2019.

Unemployment: Unemployment decreased to 303,218 people.

- That is a decrease of 142 people since April 2020 and a significant increase of 229,360 over May 2019.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 12.5 percent over the month from April's rate of 12.8 percent.

Labor force: The state's estimated labor force (people working plus people not working but looking for work) increased to 2,421,793.

- That is an increase of 44,963 people over April 2020.
- That is an increase of 50,183 individuals over May 2019.
- The labor force participation rate in May 2020 was 58.8 percent, increasing from 57.8 percent in April.

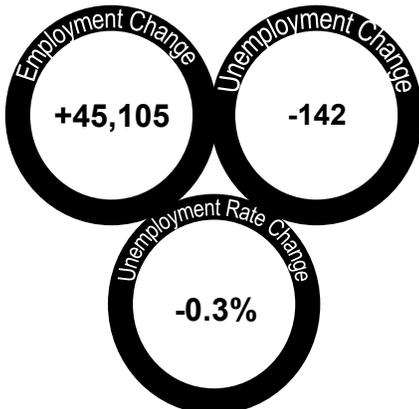
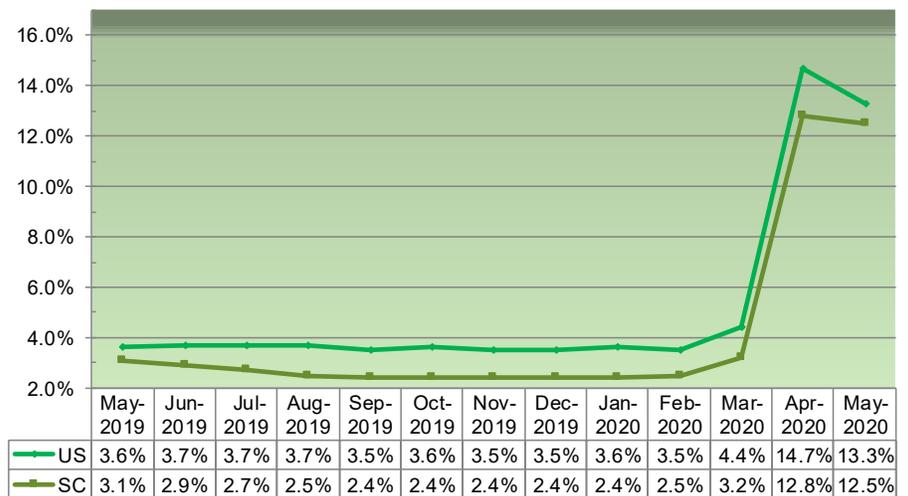
View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Economic Indicators

May 2020 - Seasonally Adjusted

	U.S.	S.C.
Labor Force	158,227,000	2,421,793
Employed	137,242,000	2,118,575
Unemployed	20,985,000	303,218
Unemployed Rate	13.3%	12.5%

South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
May 2019 - May 2020



LABOR MARKET TRENDS is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics by the LMI Division of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2019 benchmark. To subscribe to **LABOR MARKET TRENDS** or for additional information, please email LMICustomerService@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [LMI Customer Feedback Form](#).

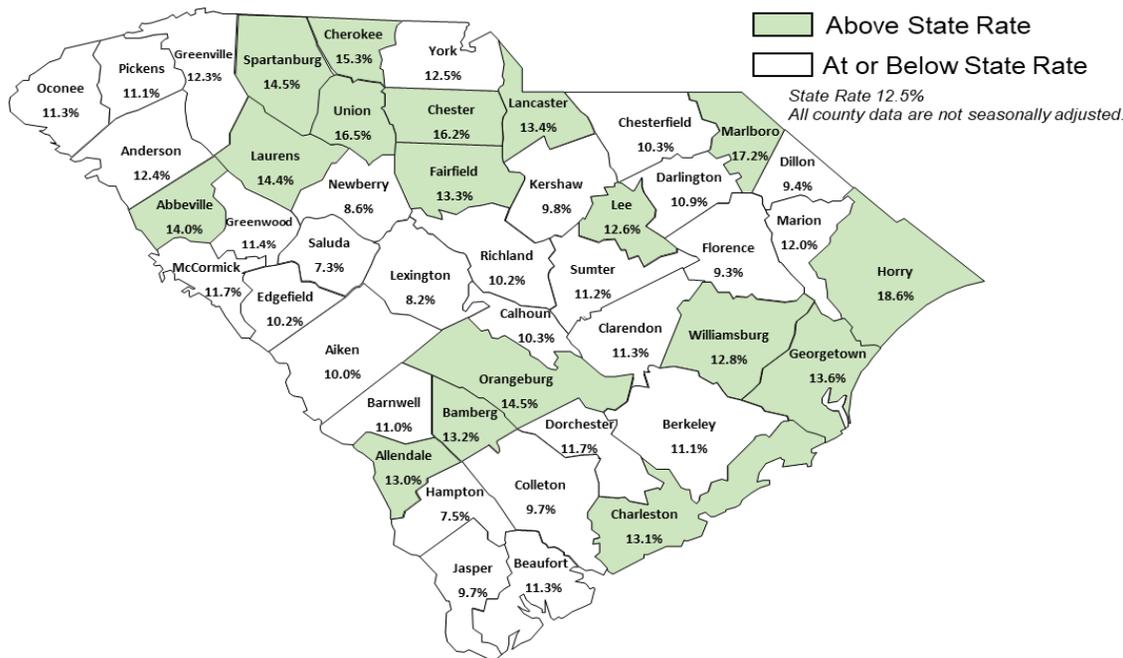
U.S. Unemployment Rates Are Mostly Lower In May; S.C. Rate Falls To 12.5 Percent, Ranked 28th Lowest In The Nation

Unemployment rates were lower in May in 38 states and the District of Columbia, higher in three states and stable in nine states. All 50 states and the District of Columbia had jobless rate increases from a year earlier. The national unemployment rate declined by 1.4 percentage points over the month to 13.3 percent, while South Carolina’s unemployment rate fell to 12.5 percent, ranking 28th lowest of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 46 states, decreased in Hawaii and the District of Columbia and was unchanged in three states in May 2020. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The largest job declines occurred in California (-2,267,100), New York (-1,794,000), and Texas (-917,800). The largest percentage declines occurred in Hawaii (-20.1 percent), Michigan (-19.2 percent), and New York (-18.3 percent).

May Unemployment Rates By County

County unemployment rates were mixed across the state as the not seasonally adjusted, statewide unemployment rate remained at 12.2 percentage points in May. Rates ranged from a low of 7.3 percent in Saluda County to a high of 18.6 percent in Horry County.



May 2020

Economic Indicators				
Average Hours & Earnings				
	United States (SA)	Monthly Change	S.C. (Unadj.)	Monthly Change
Manufacturing				
Avg Weekly Earnings	\$1,126.54	\$10.97	\$857.74	\$47.58
Avg Weekly Hours	38.9	0.8	40.1	2.8
Avg Hourly Wages	\$28.96	-\$0.32	\$21.39	-\$0.33

State Unemployment Rates

Nebraska	5.2
Utah	8.5
Wyoming	8.8
Arizona	8.9
District of Columbia	8.9
Idaho	8.9
Montana	9.0
North Dakota	9.1
New Mexico	9.2
Maine	9.3
Connecticut	9.4
South Dakota	9.4
Virginia	9.4
Arkansas	9.5
Georgia	9.7
Alabama	9.9
Maryland	9.9
Minnesota	9.9
Iowa	10.0
Kansas	10.0
Missouri	10.1
Colorado	10.2
Mississippi	10.6
Kentucky	11.0
Tennessee	11.3
Wisconsin	12.0
Indiana	12.3
South Carolina	12.5
Alaska	12.6
Oklahoma	12.6
Vermont	12.7
North Carolina	12.9
West Virginia	12.9
Texas	13.0
Pennsylvania	13.1
Louisiana	13.3
United States	13.3
Ohio	13.7
Oregon	14.2
Florida	14.5
New Hampshire	14.5
New York	14.5
Washington	15.1
Illinois	15.2
New Jersey	15.2
Delaware	15.8
California	16.3
Massachusetts	16.3
Rhode Island	16.3
Michigan	21.2
Hawaii	22.6
Nevada	25.3

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends For May—Seasonally Adjusted

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 67,600 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 1,989,400.

Industries reporting gains were Leisure and Hospitality (+36,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+10,600); Education and Health Services (+8,700); Professional and Business Services (+5,600); Construction (+3,900); Other Services (+3,800); Manufacturing (+2,600) and Financial Activities (+2,400). Retail Trade increased (+6,400).

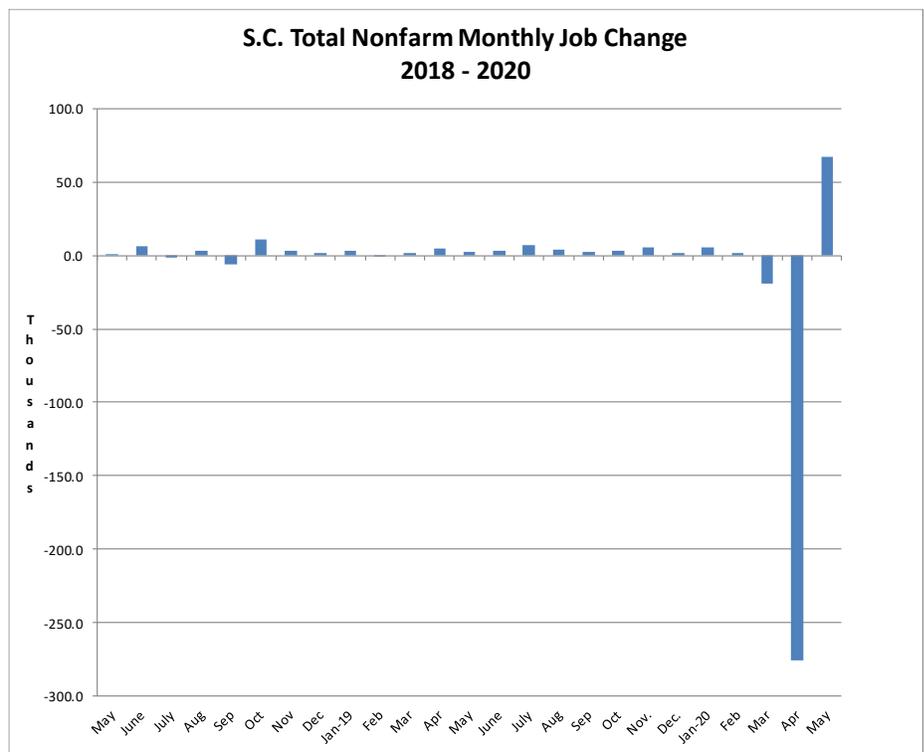
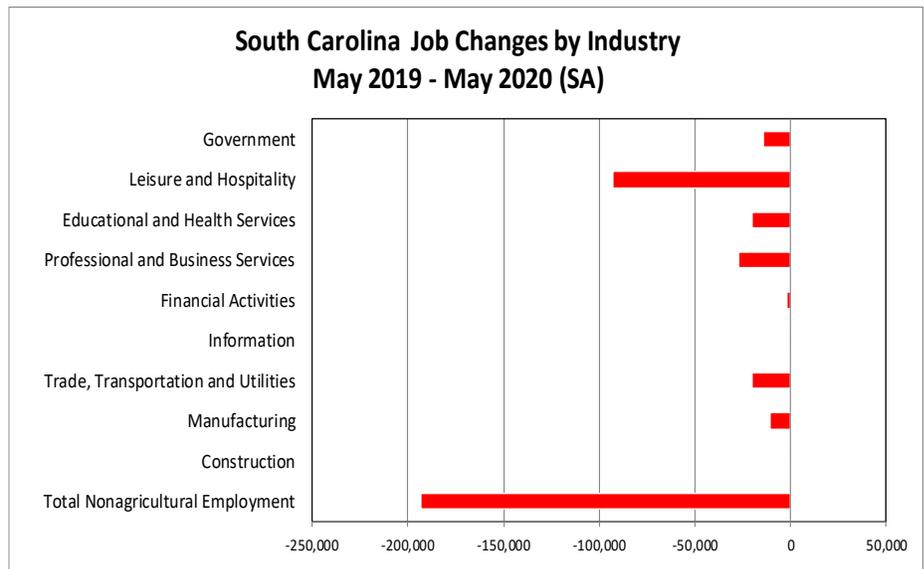
Decreases were noticed in the Government (-6,200) and Information (-100) industry.

From May 2019 to May 2020, South Carolina’s economy has lost 193,000 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

Construction was the only industry to report a gain (+300) over the year.

Decreases were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-92,800); Professional and Business Services (-27,300); Education and Health Services (-20,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-20,000); Government (-14,000); Manufacturing (-10,700); Other Services (-5,400); Financial Activities (-2,000) and Information (-600). Retail Trade declined -13,100.

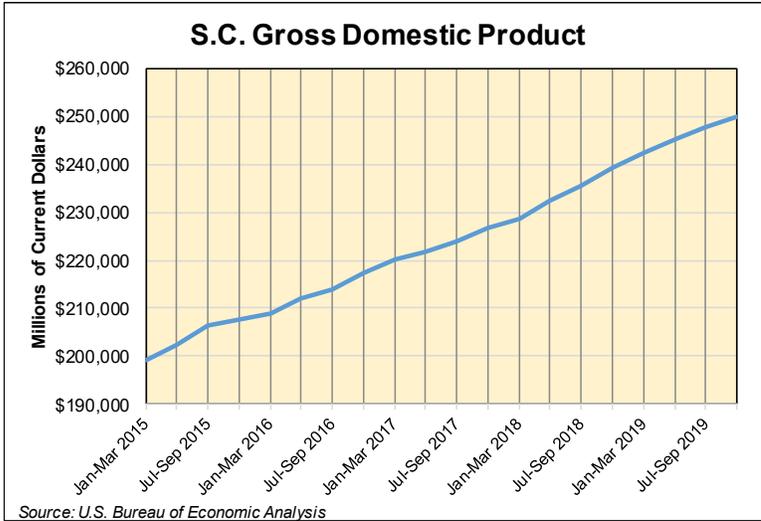
For the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll jobs increased in all areas.



Economic Indicators (May 2020)		
Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)		
MSA	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Columbia MSA	2.59%	-6.50%
Greenville MSA	2.38%	-8.75%
Sumter MSA	2.17%	-5.53%
Charleston MSA	2.12%	-11.34%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina Economic Indicators



S.C. Job Postings by Industry, May 2020

NAICS Code	Industry	Job Postings
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	7,876
44-45	Retail Trade	5,032
72	Accommodation and Food Services	2,862
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,722
31-33	Manufacturing	2,386
92	Public Administration	2,176
61	Educational Services	2,126
52	Finance and Insurance	2,026
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management	1,343
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	1,105
23	Construction	876
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	624
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	538
51	Information	518
42	Wholesale Trade	279
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	224
22	Utilities	108
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	75
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	53
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	28

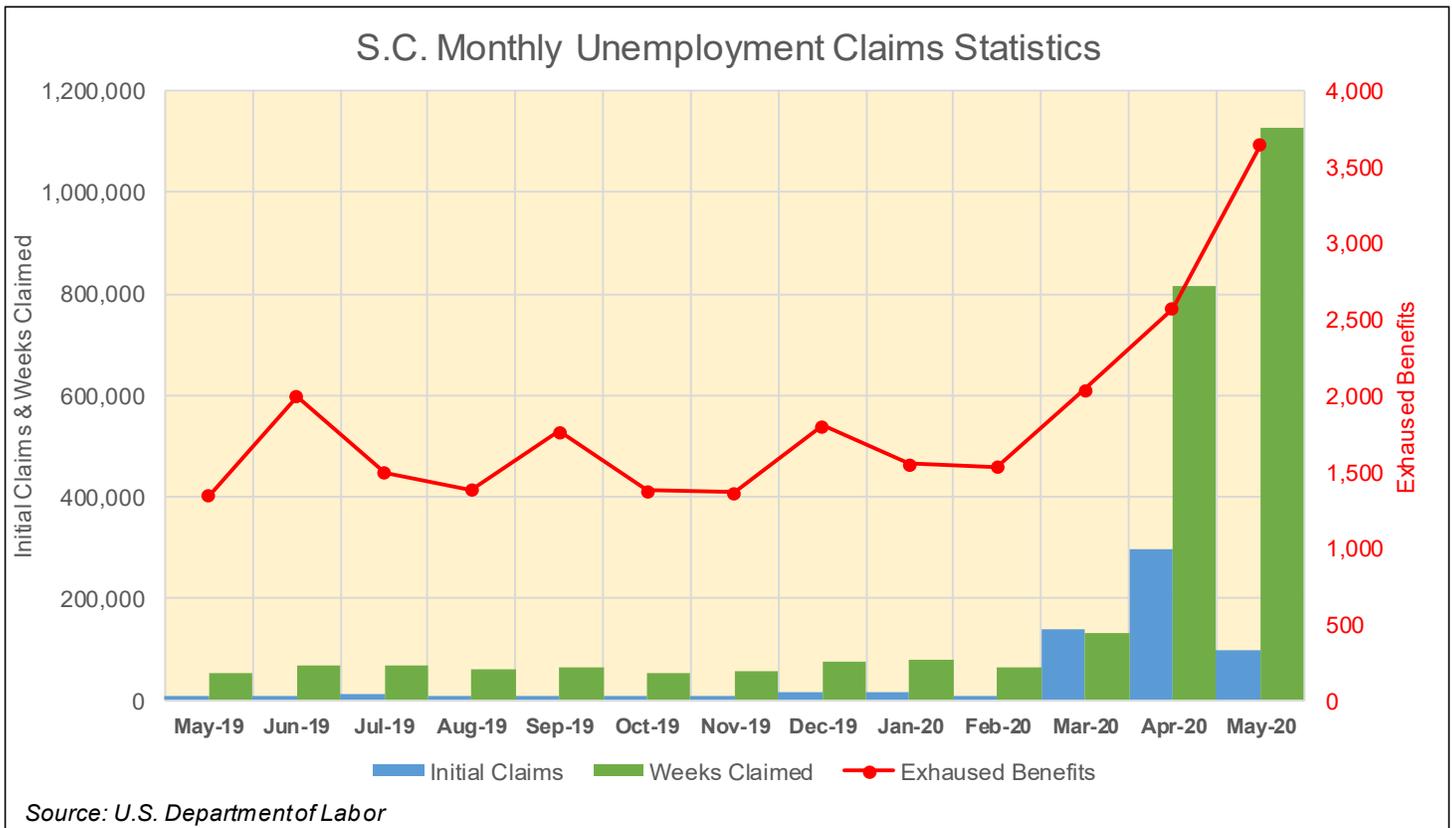
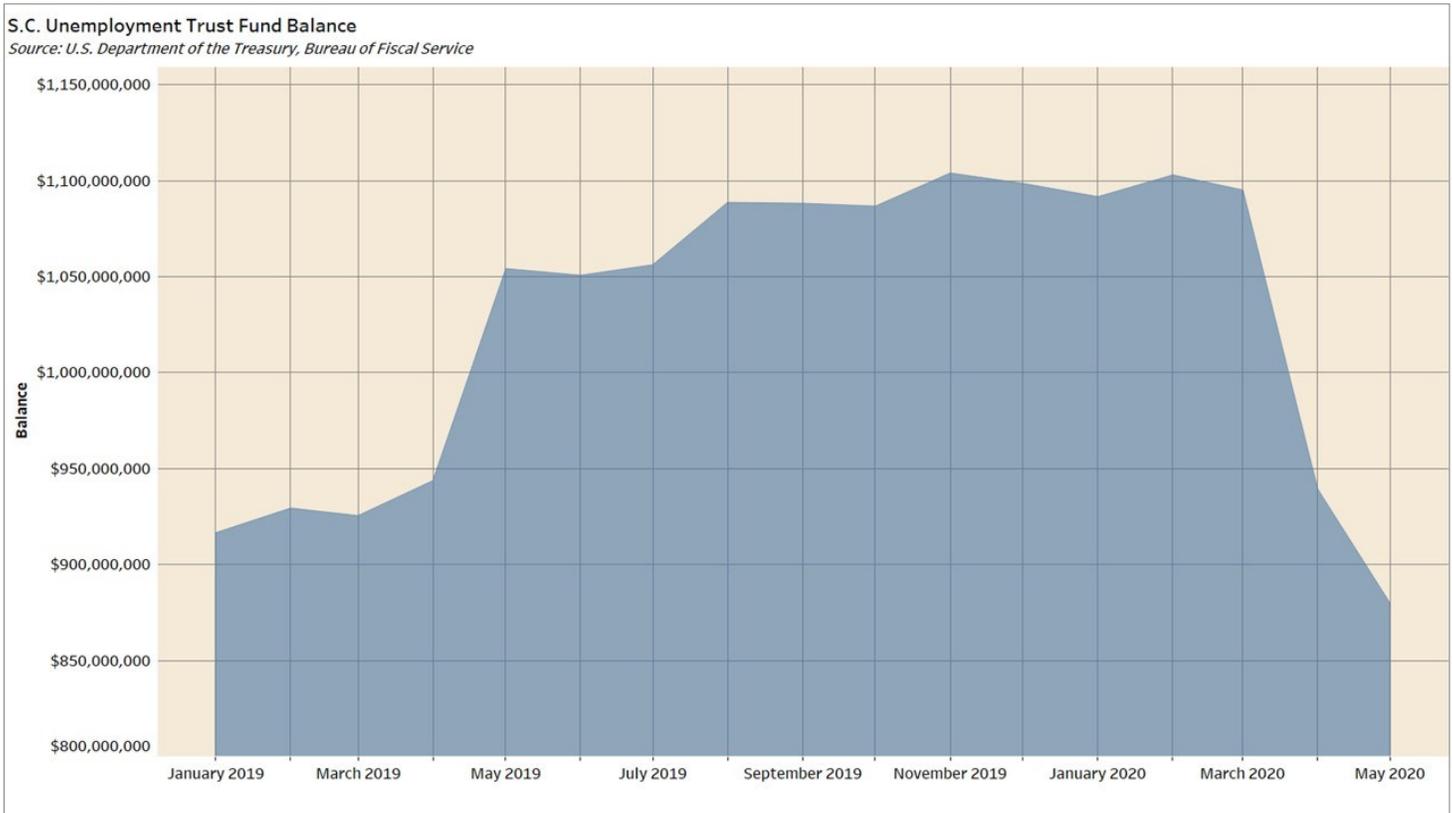
Source: Labor Insight Jobs (Burning Glass Technologies)

S.C. Average Weekly Wage by Industry Group, 2019Q4

Industry Group	Avg Wkly Wage	Perc Chg from Yr Ago
Total, All Industries	\$931	4.0%
Natural Resources and Mining	\$885	6.9%
Construction	\$1,156	4.8%
Manufacturing	\$1,188	1.8%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	\$811	3.6%
Information	\$1,312	7.6%
Financial Activities	\$1,259	5.9%
Professional and Business Services	\$1,087	5.4%
Education and Health Services	\$974	3.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	\$373	4.8%
Other Services	\$700	4.2%
Public Administration	\$983	4.2%

Source: DEW, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

South Carolina Economic Indicators (Continued)



South Carolina Average Hourly Earnings by Industry

December 2007 to December 2019 in Current and Real Dollars

This is an excerpt from a presentation by DEW that can be found online at our website [here](#).

Introduction

The topic of stagnant industry wages in the U.S. has been discussed in the media for some time. This presentation highlights the average hourly earnings in South Carolina for several notable industry domains and sectors to show what has been the experience in this state. The information is shown for current (also called nominal) wages as well as for real (also called constant or inflation-adjusted) dollars over the period December 2007 to December 2019. In this presentation, wages mean average hourly earnings.

The findings:

- Private industry wages rose in current dollars as well as in real terms over the 12 year period.
- Goods Producing domain wages rose by either measure, including Construction and Manufacturing.
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities as well as Professional and Business Services wages rose in current dollars but fell in real dollars.
- From December 2016 to December 2019, average hourly earnings have increased for all presented industries by either measure, except for a dip in real wages of the Educational and Health Services industry sector.

